

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01  
SAJ-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05  
/097 W

-----161145Z 062036 /17

R 160800Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4217  
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USLO PEKING  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USUN  
IAEA VIENNA 5118

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 2187

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PARM, UR, US  
SUBJECT: SOVIET MFA OFFICIALS COMMENT ON ARMS CONTROL ISSUES

1. SUMMARY: DURING CALL BY POLCOUNS AND EMBOFF  
FEB 14, MFA INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION DEPARTMENT CHIEF  
ISRAELYAN AND DEPUTY TIMERBAYEV COMMENTED ON PRESIDENT'S  
PRESS CONFERENCE REFERENCES TO ARMS CONTROL WHICH THEY  
SAID SOVIETS WERE SERIOUSLY STUDYING, AND ON TOPICS FOR  
IMMEDIATE ATTENTION IN ARMS CONTROL FIELD. MOST SIGNIFICANT  
COMMENT WAS NEGATIVE REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S BILATERAL  
APPROACH TO CTB. END SUMMARY.

2. ISRAELYAN AND TIMERBAYEV REVIEWED ARMS CONTROL TOPICS  
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IN GENERAL AND COMMENTED ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S FEB 8  
PRESS CONFERENCE. FOLLOWING ARE SIGNIFICANT COMMENTS  
BY TOPIC.

3. CTB: ISRAELYAN RECALLED THAT SECRETARY VANCE HAD  
ALREADY TALKED TO DOBRYNIN ABOUT CTB ISSUES AND LATTER HAD  
BEEN TOLD THAT ISSUE WAS UNDER STUDY IN USG AND THAT SOVIET

IDEAS WERE BEING SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED. ISRAELYAN, THEREFORE, WAS MILDLY SURPRISED TO SEE TOPIC REFERRED TO BY PRESIDENT IN TERMS WHICH WERE SO DIFFERENT FROM THOSE DISCUSSED BY VANCE AND DOBRYNIN. HE CHARACTERIZED CARTER REMARKS AS "NOT A GOOD RESPONSE," BUT THEN QUALIFIED THIS BY STATING THAT HE REALIZED THAT PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS WERE NOT NECESSARILY DEFINED POLICY STATEMENTS. BOTH ISRAELYAN AND TIMERBAYEV REPEATED SOVIET DESIRE TO CONDUCT CTB NEGOTIATIONS WITH ALL NUCLEAR POWERS. NONETHELESS, THEY STRESSED THAT ENTIRE TEXT OF PRESS CONFERENCE WAS RECEIVING SERIOUS ATTENTION IN MFA, IMPLYING CTB PARTS WERE ALSO.

4. MDW: ISRAELYAN THOUGHT THAT HE DETECTED CONSIDERABLE CHANGE IN U.S. POSITION IN PAST SIX MONTHS ON ISSUE OF MDW. HE REFERRED TO U.S. PRESENTATION ON RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS IN LAST CCD SESSION AND WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS MDW ISSUES WITH SOVIETS BILATERALLY AND AT EXPERT LEVEL IN GENEVA. HOWEVER, HE WISHED TO POINT OUT THAT SOVIET POSITION WAS THAT FULL CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES IN CCD AND PARTICIPATION BY U.S. IN SUCH DISCUSSION WAS IN ORDER. HE SAID SOVIETS WOULD, OF COURSE, WELCOME FURTHER DISCUSSION AT EXPERT LEVEL IN GENEVA, BUT THAT CONCRETE WORK ON ISSUE IN CCD ALSO NEEDED. HE ASKED U.S. TO INFORM SOVIETS IF THEY WERE PREPARED TO DISCUSS MDW BILATERALLY AND IN CCD FORUM.

5. CW: BOTH ISRAELYAN AND TIMERBAYEV EXPRESSED OPTIMISM ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR CW IN CURRENT CCD SESSION, BUT  
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WISHED TO KNOW IF U.S. WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS ISSUE IN DETAIL IN GENEVA ON BASIS OF SOVIET PROPOSALS. TIMERBAYEV POINTED OUT GROMYKO'S "NEW SUGGESTION" AT UNGA FOR INSPECTION OF STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION AND ASKED RHETORICALLY IF U.S. MIGHT NOT BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THIS ASPECT.

6. LONDON CLUB: TIMERBAYEV (AFTER ISRAELYAN WAS FORCED TO LEAVE MEETING EARLY) SAID SOVIETS WERE MOST INTERESTED IN COMING MEETING OF NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS IN LONDON MARCH 24 AND ASKED IF EMBASSY COULD STATE WHETHER U.S. WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS FULL FUEL SAFEGUARDS AT MEETING. EMBOFF RECALLED MOROKHOV'S QUESTION ON SAME SUBJECT IN JANUARY AND NEED FOR NEW OFFICIALS TO STUDY ISSUE (COMMENT: MOROKHOV QUESTIONED UTILITY OF MEETING IS U.S. WERE NOT PREPARED, BUT TIMERBAYEV DID NOT). TIMERBAYEV RESPONDED THAT SOVIETS WERE STILL AWAITING REPLY.

7. WITH EXCEPTION OF ISRAELYAN'S QUALIFIED COMMENT ON

CTB, BOTH MEN RESISTED BEING DRAWN OUT ON ANY ASPECTS OF PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE. ISRAELYAN AVOIDED COMMENT BY REMARKING THAT HIS PERSONAL VIEWS WOULD NOT BE IMPORTANT AND THAT IN ANY CASE, ALL ASPECTS OF PRESS CONFERENCE WERE BEING CAREFULLY STUDIED.

8. COMMENT: WE REALIZE WASHINGTON'S NEED FOR TIME TO REVIEW THESE ISSUES AND POINTED THIS OUT TO OUR INTER-LOCUTORS. NEVERTHELESS WE WOULD APPRECIATE, IF POSSIBLE, EVEN INTERIM RESPONSE TO QUESTION POSED IN PARA 6.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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22 May 2009  
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